MARVEL

PG 51 149

WELLS

HERRERA

FAUCHER

PETER PARKER™ SPIDER-MAN®

JUST ANOTHER MANIC MONDAY PART I

HERRERA FAUCHER '02

delgado

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Ah... head... tingling

BEE--

I know I need more sleep when the alarm sets off my spider sense.

I'll get the last laugh, Monday morning, with a spider-shower.

That's the ticket...

Ahhhhmmph.

Okay, Peter, what's it going to be today?

Casuals, a bus pass, and a quick nap on the way to work...

...or the reds, the blues, and a quick swing through the city?

Sigh, Who am I kidding?

I thought it was "no rest for the wicked." Yeah, right. . .

"...ten to one the bad guys get to sleep in."

Hey hey! Rise and shine New York, you're listening to traffic and weather with Chuck and Ronnie!

How are you feeling this morning, Chuck?

You know Mondays are a shock to my system, Ronnie!

Ha ha! I sure do, Chuck! Why--

Hrmmph.

Quiet, I'm trying to sleep here! Ha ha! Because it's Monday!

C'mon. Get to it already.

Okay, let it go, Ronnie.

Right! Before we get to the traffic, the Super-Villain Tracking Service has asked that we remind you of the super-villains currently on the lam!

Doctor Octopus is at large and has been active as recent as late summer...

C'mon, say it. They know I'm in the city...

The Green Goblin is still considered dangerous, and there have been reports of Stilt-Man haunting the city's alleyways...

Stilt-Man? I made it for sure...

...and that's that!

...snobs...

...and standing yellow alerts are in place for Electro, The Vulture, The Lizard, The Rhino, The Scorpion...

Oh, come on!!

So, keep an eye out, folks...

"...you never know where a super-villain is going to pop up."

HOTEL

EL PAISA

What the...?

#@$% ...leaky tub...

Half of me right down the drain... coulda woke up in waste treatment again...

...hate city water...

Stan Lee Presents

HYDRO-MAN And The SHOCKER

In JUST ANOTHER MANIC MONDAY

Starring Peter Parker: SPIDER-MAN

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John, I'm at the corner of 6TH and Main where, by all accounts, traffic is at a complete standstill...

GNN TV.

According to witnesses, the perpetrator, identified as the "Stilt-Man," began indiscriminately destroying cars...

...let's try to zoom in here...

GNN TV

...and frankly, John, it doesn't take a seasoned New Yorker to guess what this is about.

GNN TV.

HONK! HONK!

I'm going nowhere until that coward Daredevil--

HONK!

Until Daredevil--

HONK!

Will you please shut up! I can't hear myself think!

And this, ladies and gentlemen, is why I have a two hour commute.

HONK!

HONK!

Hoooooooonk!

One more time, I dare you! I'll step on your car at the drop of a hat!

Hoooooooonk!

I'd just love to hear what his problem is, but I can't be late for work, y'know?

--hurk!

This is my life: making excuses to hit people really hard.

Out a little early, aren't we, Stilt-Man?

This is between me and Daredevil, Wall-Crawler. You're not supposed to be here.

But I'm meeting the Lizard here in five minutes! This isn't fair!

You think this is funny?!

No, you're right. This a scheduling disaster. Remind me to fire my agent.

ZZZZZZZZZZ

Let's face it, that's one costume that screams "after dark."

Or at the very least "circus tent."

But... I made this helmet so he can't hit me in the face with his stick.

Yeah, great story. Look, it's been really sad, but I should be going.

What are you--

Oh, no.

Hup!

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

My life: More idiocy before 9:00 AM than most people see all day.

GAARR!

HAMMER INDUSTRIES

SHUNK!

SHUNK!

Hey.

Hey.

See ya around.

Yeah.

Ah, Herman, good morning to you. And how are we feeling today?

Older, Doc. One day older.

Hmmph. I do wish you'd leave us your costume, Herman. It worries me to keep amplifying your gauntlets-- um-- amplitude without increasing your protection...

Right, Doc. As soon as you clowns get your hands on my suit, I become one hundred percent replaceable.

But the vibrations...

I can stand a few nose bleeds if it means a little job security.

Now what have we here?

Oh, the boys in R&D got a little carried away. The device's concussive force is virtually off the charts.

Better bring me some gauze.

Good. Very good.

Record absorption. Estimated mass at 2000 kilograms. Estimated density 16 grams per cubic centimeter. Minimal increase in volume.

Hunnnhh.

This shows impressive control, but to be honest I'm not sure of the tactical benefits...

Hunnhh.

WOOOOSH!

Then what are we doing here, "Professor"?

We-- we're "testing the limits of your powers so as to better prepare you for future operations." D-- Don't you want to be a team player, Mr. Bench?

I haven't had much luck with teams...

Come now, Morrie, surely you appreciate the stability of being an employee of Hammer Industries.

I don't know, Doc...

"...sometimes I miss the glamour of a good old fashioned super-feud."

Okay-- *hmmph*-- yeah, I think the pants come off next.

Hey! Get outta the road already!

Yeah, I used you as an excuse last week, you're gonna get me fired!

Let's move!

Hey, I'm going to be late for class, myself.

All yours...

Looked like you've done that before.

Shut up.

Jeez, if I was a super-villain, I'd try to get to the gym every once and a while.

Okay, I think he's physically harmless now, though I wouldn't stare at those legs for too long.

Do I get a thank you, or are we going to do that thing where you try to arrest me and I swing off with a one-liner?

Whatever.

Hey, why's everyone so down?

Look, Spider-Man, we're gonna be here directing traffic for the rest of the day because of this little stunt.

Remember when you guys used to make our jobs easier?

Hmmph!

No one-liner for you.

Morrie. Herman.

Can I see you both in my office please?

Have a seat, gentlemen.

I'd like you both to know that Hammer Industries greatly appreciates the work you've done for us as *Hydro-Man* and *Shocker*...

It's "*The*" Shocker.

Oh. Of course it is. Would you like some coffee, "The Shocker?"

Uh, you only use "*The*" when--

Terry! Get The Shocker some coffee.

Yes, Mr. Morrell.

Here you are, "The Shocker."

Uh...

And you, Sir?

No thanks, it's dehydrating.

Everyone set? Good. Now I'm sure the both of you are well aware of your arrangement with Hammer Industries.

We provide you with the means to bolster your abilities, and in return we get a stake in your extralegal activities. Allowing us to bolster our stock while guaranteeing Hammer Inc. a well trained army for our more...

...personal operations.

Sadly, our super-villain investments have, for the most part, resulted in less than satisfactory results. Of course, looking at your dossiers, I don't have to tell *you* that.

Terry, really, this is the worst coffee I've ever tasted. You'd better not be up to your old tricks...

"Old tricks"?

Now, I'm sure in this time the two of you have become quite close...

Uh, actually we've never really...

Please. Let's not make this any harder than it has to be.

The fact of the matter is our accountants got a bit... *optimistic* with the revenues from you and your peer's operations. Unfortunately this sort of creative reporting has become the latest war drum for our elected officials to beat.

Now we can take the slap on the wrist for "cheating" our shareholders, but I'm afraid the prospect of a lenghthy investagation into this particular facility does not sit well with upper-management. And with Mr. Hammer currently dead...

...or is it frozen...

What are you trying to say?

Effective immediately, all extralegal activities at this location will cease...

...you both have one hour to gather your belongings and vacate the premises. And just between me and you, don't bother cashing in your 401 k's.

I should have punched him in the throat.

Huh?

DAVE MORRELL

BAM

I'm just saying, ten years ago I wouldn't have taken this.

Excuse me, ladies.

Oh, dear.

What happened to me? I wake up one morning and I'm just another guy in a suit taking crap from the boss.

Yeah, this was never really my scene anyway, but a paycheck's a paycheck.

Right in the throat...

Hmmph.

CRASH!

I'll give you, "redundancy"!

Urmph!

Well, there you go.

Dammit.

That used to be me.

You're awfully quiet tonight, Peter.

There's not some villain from your past trying to kill you again, is there?

Well, no, but... I went and saw Flash after work, and it just got me thinking...

...it seems like every time I turn around I'm fighting the same guys I've been battling for years.

And more often than not, it's not about anything other than what happened the last time we fought. It's all so self-serving...

I mean, when I first started out, I just wanted to help people; keep them safe. If I wanted to fight guys in tights every day, I'd have kept wrestling for money in high school.

Wrestling?!? In high school?!? Peter Parker! Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

Uh, that you can't get me when I'm up here?

Peter Parker! You get down from there!

What? I'm just "hanging around"!!

Oh, Peter, cut that out...

What? I'm not allowed to show off for my Aunt May?

Oh I get it. You prefer me as a "Wall Flower"!?!

Get it?

Eh?

Oh, that one was really bad, Peter...

Well, in all reality it could be worse, May my dear, I could have been...

THWIPP!

...a swinger!

Oh dear!

Oh!

HUUK!

SNAP!

Now Peter... You've... *heh. Hee hee.* Now... That's kind of funny. *Hee hee.*

HA HA!

Hey, I still got it.

Oh, Peter...

How anyone could hate you, I'll never know.

I know it may seem old-fashioned, but in my day people were responsible for their *own* actions.

I know, Aunt May, But I'm afraid Flash being in a coma may have permanently opened my eyes.

You're a sensitive boy, Peter. You always have been. But don't think you're responsible for every evil man you come across.

That all to easily becomes an excuse to do *nothing*. Sometimes good men *need* a little blind enthusiasm.

You know, most people actually come here to eat.

Denny's

Yeah, thanks for the info, sweetheart. Now beat it.

And leave the pitcher.

So what do you think? An assassination? We can call my contacts in the mob; they've always got someone to kill.

You're thinking kind of small scale, aren't you? That's not gonna get us the front page.

I don't know...

I've been thinking about taking it down a notch, you know what I mean?

No...

Look, I used to be the best safecracker in town. Made a lot of money at it too. Then I came up with my vibro-units, and I just had to look at a safe and make it crack...

But I had to wear this suit for protection, and if you haven't noticed it's a little... flamboyant.

Could be worse.

Next thing I know I'm a "Super-Villain," and let me tell you, that's when I stopped making money. The Avengers start showing up instead of the cops and you're screwed.

And before you know it I was caught up in the game, started looking for clout instead of cash. Fought Spider-Man all the time. Lost all the time.

Best safecracker in the world and I ain't got a dime to show for it.

I don't know, I think it's worth it. I mean, don't you just hate them?

Do I hate Spider-Man when he shows up and informs me I won't be bringing my money home? Hell yes. But I'd just as soon not run into him, if you know what I mean.

Yeah, well, I've really got nothing better to do than look for paybacks. I'm not getting any older.

You mean younger...

No, I'm not getting any older. I don't think I've aged a day since Spider-Man turned me into a freak, so what do I care? I'm livin' like a rock star.

Yeah, well have you ever seen "Behind The Music"?

What are you saying?

Time is passing us by. We're nobodies. Remember when that guy Scourge was shooting up villains? I was petrified. Now I almost wish he'd come after me. I'd dodge a few caps if it meant I was a player again...

I'm talking about one last score, something I can retire on, something that means all this silliness was worth it...

Let's kill Spider-Man. That'll teach everyone who they're dealing with.

Are you even listening to me! This is what's the matter with us! What is killing Spider-Man going to get us!?!

Hey, guys, not that I want to offend a couple of big spenders like yourselves, but how about keeping it down over here?

You know what it will get us?

Respect.

Hello there! I'm talking to you!

Never underestimate the value of respect.

Hey, sweetheart? Listen close because this is the only tip you're getting. Hear those pipes creaking?

Hold your breath.

Derry's

You find your score, Shocker, and I'll take care of Spider-Man.

Derry

To be continued